(Rs. in crore)

Year	Assistance sought	NCCF Assistance provided
2001-02	930.45	
2002-03	1562.85	189.18(so far)

During 2002-2003, 3.65 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been allocated free of cost. In addition to release of funds under the schemes implemented by the Departments of Drinking Water Supply and Urban Development, assistance has been provided to Karnataka for the current drought under the special component of 5% provision under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme earmarked for natural calamities. However, necessary action at the ground is required to be taken by the State Government.

Import of seeds of agro products

345. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the seeds of different agro products have been imported in the past to improve the yields;

(b) if so, whether the imported seeds were of low quality;

(c) if not, whether it is a fact that the countries exporting such seeds to India don't use the same; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No report has been received regarding the low quality of imported seeds;

(c) Yes, Sir. Some countries including India, grow seeds for export purposes to suit different agro climatic regions, etc.

(d) The quality of imported seeds and planting materials is regulated under the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of import into India) Order, 1989 and the New Policy on Seed Development.